

to me that what legislating governors of men legislate ought to be decided with a copy of the Bible somewhere handy for reference into the will of God in matters.

Regarding those who think government should legislate more and more in order to secure an orderly society, they are just dead wrong. I am constantly amazed when at how many incredibly massive bills come from Congress to the president. Once a bill is voted on, voted down, amended, laden with “pork” and finally passed, it practically needs a flatbed trailer to deliver it to the White House because it is several thousand pages long. The Bible is a mere 66 books long, and within its pages we have all sorts of laws given by God, and divine principles for good measure, which teach all humans how to behave and live. Our “founding fathers” understood this and spoke often of the will of the Creator in shaping the U.S. Constitution.

Frankly, many rulers become drunk with power that God didn’t give them. They forget what He actually did tell them to do – *to protect good people*. If anything, government ought to uphold those who honor the God of heaven and earth for the good that they do rather than attempting to regulate God out of their citizen’s lives. And, by the way, governments should certainly stop elevating evil people with evil beliefs and evil practices to the level of the righteous (Isaiah 5:20). God most certainly does not approve of any government which legislates abortion to be a woman’s sacred right, or that a man can marry a man, or that a woman can decide she is a man with woman parts.

Governments of today seem to have forgotten God entirely. In the cases where this is true, governing authorities have forgotten their God-given mandate, and those who wield power (whether elected or usurped) have invented their own powers when they turn their backs on the Creator.

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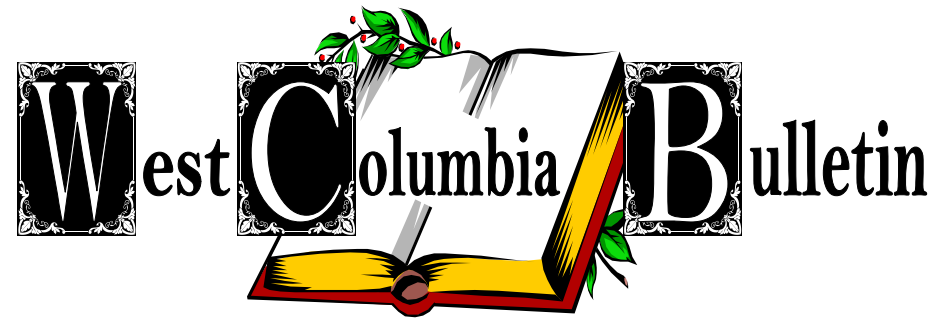
Schedule Of Services...

Sunday:

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Bible Classes | 9:00 a.m. |
| Worship | 9:50 a.m. |
| Worship | 6:00 p.m. |

Wednesday:

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Bible Classes | 7:00 p.m. |
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May 24, 2020

Government And Law

David Weaks

When the Bible speaks of “law,” it can be referring the principle of law itself, human laws, or the Law of God, depending on context. For example, Paul spoke of brother going to law with brother in some unnamed dispute (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). This was clearly a dispute to be decided in the courts of human justice, but which could have been resolved peacefully and privately if cooler heads had prevailed. Other texts discuss the law of God (see: Romans 7:22; 8:7).

The principle of “law,” whether divine law or governing law, refers to the boundaries of right and wrong along with the enforcement of those boundaries and the imposition of correction or punishment for breaking the laws. God’s law says the penalty

for sin (lawlessness – 1 John 3:4) is death (Romans 6:23). The punishment for violating human laws can range from community service, to imprisonment, or the death penalty. Laws establish the boundaries within which men may walk, and it imposes the penalty for walking outside of those boundaries.

The principle of law also refers to the concept of a ruler. In the case of human governments, there is normally a king, a prime-minister, or president at the top. In addition to the ruler, there is usually a law-making body involved in the process of governing. However, in the case of divine law, there is just God who is the law-maker and law-giver. It is God’s law that we treasure in our hearts so that we might not sin against Him

(Psalms 119:11).

The Law of God has been expressed to mankind in different ways at different times (Hebrews 1:1). Early in history, God's Laws were given to people through the heads of families called patriarchs - most notably to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Later, God gave His Law to the Jews at Mount Sinai through Moses. Now, we live by the Law of Christ (Galatians 6:2), which was spoken by His Son (Hebrews 1:2).

Where civil law is concerned, there exists the sad reality that those entrusted to govern often abuse the people they govern. This is true not only of dictators it is often true of duly elected representatives who eventually decide that the people who elected them do not matter. Society would be better, and there would be more peace and justice, if rulers would remember that law belongs to God, and that it is He who entrusts to them their governing authority (Romans 13). However, earthly rulers seem to believe that the only thing that matters is that people's lives must be regulated, ordered, and all their movements, thoughts, and choices must be herded by those in power "so we can have an orderly society."

When you read the New

Testament you will find no verse which says God prefers one form of government over all others. We are told, that it is good and right in the sight of God that Christians pray for and give thanks for kings and all who are in authority so we can lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence (1 Timothy 2:1-3). Jesus also said that we should render to Caesar what is Caesar's (Matthew 22:21). Remember that Caesar was a dictator, yet Christians were to pay taxes to him. Paul and Peter likewise spoke of submission to government and paying taxes (Romans 13:3-5; 1 Peter 2:14).

God did not, however, grant human governments unlimited authority to legislate everything. Certainly, law-making and enforcement is implied in mandate to provide peaceful lives for citizens, but law-making is not Government's main role. The scriptures teach that the primary role of government is to protect those who do right against those who do evil.

Furthermore, the Bible is silent on the matter of government and social causes. "Cradle to grave" entitlements from government are an invention of men. The government was given a sword

which must not be used vainly, it must be used to avenge God upon those who practice evil (Romans 13:4). Government must "*attend continually to this very thing*" (Romans 14:6).

Yet, mostly governors and kings depart from this fundamental duty of government and simply want to exercise power over people's lives. This is where government goes off the rails. There are many laws created by men that are unjust and contrary to the laws of God. In such cases, we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Paul emphasized the limits of human government when he said: "*that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,*" (1 Timothy 1:9-10). In the context Paul was talking about the law of God, but the principle taught here surely applies to human laws and government as well. The law was not meant to prosecute the righteous, but the wicked. Those who practice what is contrary to

the sound doctrine of God (i.e. evil deeds) are worthy of condemnation and punishment by government.

Just as the law of God identifies and informs man about sin (Romans 7:7), the laws established by governments inform citizens what is criminal and what is not. For these reasons, it is right and just that Christians submit to and pay the necessary taxes imposed for the operation of government.

Here is the flaw in human governments of today, whether republics, democracies, or communists: God did not surrender His creation to the shifting moral standards and political whims of society, or to the lust for power by dictators. God wanted government to protect those who do right from those who do evil. All of the rest is window dressing.

So that leads me to the point "*What is the **RIGHT** thing that people must do in order to receive the protection of God-ordained government?*" God is the source of all that is true and right. When we follow God's laws we are walking in the light (1 John 1:5-7). The creator alone has the sovereign power to decide what the "mark" is that all must strike or sin by missing the mark (1 John 3:4). Therefore, it seems